



LOUISIANA SENATE

For Immediate Release

9.19.14

Contact: Sen. Crowe
985.643.3600

JOINT LABOR & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE TAKES WORKFORCE NEEDS DISCUSSION TO NORTH LOUISIANA

SECOND IN SERIES OF REGIONAL MEETINGS TO PREPARE FOR EXPECTED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOOM

Members of the Senate and House Labor and Industrial Relations Committees are joining forces with the Louisiana Workforce Commission to hold a special meeting in North Louisiana next week to discuss how best to meet the workforce needs of existing, new and expanding businesses and industries across the state. It is the second in a series of regional meetings to bring business representatives, community leaders and concerned citizens together to better prepare Louisiana to meet the needs of employers, employees, educators and local communities amidst tremendous economic expansion and development across the state.

Workforce development officials estimate that over 80,000 high paying jobs with benefits will be created in Louisiana beginning next year. The need spans all sectors of the job market from software developers to construction workers and more.

"As chairman of the Senate Labor and Industrial Relations Committee, I believe it is very important that we reach out to the labor force and job providers throughout the state through these joint committee meetings," Sen. A.G. Crowe (R-Slidell) said. "These meetings also help us to formulate any future legislation that may be needed to produce the needed skilled workforce and to facilitate job growth in Louisiana."

It is a sentiment shared by House Labor and Industrial Relations Committee Chairman Rep. Herman Dixon (D-Alexandria). "New job opportunities will become increasingly more important in Louisiana's future. We need to have a clear understanding of how the state workforce investment council is merging stakeholder groups to provide the necessary training and education to fulfill the needed jobs," Rep. Dixon said.

Sen. Bob Kostelka (R-Monroe), who serves on the Senate labor committee, has long focused on career education and development of the state's community and technical college system to meet workforce needs. He encourages all interested individuals and groups to have a say at the special joint hearing.

"We have tremendous opportunities here in Louisiana to provide our citizens with good paying jobs at a time when many other states are still struggling. We must do everything we can

to make sure we are prepared to take advantage of these opportunities and are ready to tackle any workforce challenges from the ground up,” Sen. Kostelka said.

The joint legislative hearing begins at **9:00 a.m. Tuesday, September 23, 2014** at the **Louisiana Tech Institute for Micro Manufacturing in Ruston**. The institute is located at **505 Tech Drive**.

Those scheduled to join the workforce development discussion at the joint meeting include Ruston Mayor Dan Hollingsworth; Louisiana Tech University President Dr. Leslie Guice; Curt Eysink, Executive Director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission; officials with the state’s community and technical college system; and representatives of Benteler Steel, North American Public Sector CSC, CenturyLink, Draxd Biomass, and Lamb Weston-ConAgra Foods.

The first regional joint meeting to discuss workforce needs was held in Lake Charles earlier this year.

###